

## AN INSUFFICIENT BUT RELATED OFFERING--CAPT ASHE'S WORK

By DR. T. B. KINGSBURY.

While writing from time to time of so many men I have known, I have referred but briefly to the ablest man of my own family I have ever known, or of whom I have any knowledge, in eight generations in this country. I refer to my first cousin, Brigadier General Charles P. Kingsbury, of the United States army, who died at his home on Hancock street, Brooklyn, New York, on Christmas day, 1879, aged 61 years. He was a native of Clyde, Wayne county, New York, and while a small boy was taken care of by my father, the late Russell Kingsbury, of Oxford, N. C., who brought him to his home with an older brother and sister, and provided for them all. He lacked the very necessary advantages of a continued thorough education, but was wonderfully bright and promising. He entered West Point Military Academy in 1836, and his class was regarded as a good one. He stood second, and was graduated in 1840. He received the same distinction that the greatest Southron, Gen. Robert E. Lee, received. My impression is that he was at school but a year or two for some years before he obtained an appointment through the favor of the father of Brigadier General Junius Daniel, Hon. J. R. J. Daniel, then a member of the Federal Congress, from the Halifax district. In 1880, twenty-nine years ago, an article upon him appeared in the "North Carolina Presbyterian," then published in Wilmington. It stated correctly that he "was graduated in a large class in 1840, in which there were many men who became greatly distinguished. In subsequent years, among them Generals Thomas and Sherman, and he led them all." He took the second place, a man from Louisiana having the first, although it was held by the cadets generally that cadet Kingsbury was much his superior. He served with distinction in the Mexican war, was General Taylor's aid at the battle of Buena Vista, and is specially mentioned by him in his official report. Belonging to the Ordnance Department, his opportunities for distinction in active operations were few. He was, however, a very able man, a very brilliant and pungent writer, and of very studious habits and varied attainments. He wrote largely at one period of his life for the leading magazines and reviews of the country, and left two or three volumes in manuscript.

The New York Times paid a just tribute to him at his death, and among other things said of him:

"He was a veteran of two wars, and a faithful servant of his country. Quiet and severely studious of habits, slightly austere of manner, a rigid Presbyterian of the Old School, and a singularly skilful soldier in that branch of the military profession to which he was attached, General Kingsbury was one of those public servants whose rule of conduct always is the strict performance of duty; his highest reward the consciousness of duty well done."

When a young officer, he wrote a "treatise of Artillery Tactics," which was long a text book at West Point. He married Miss Mary McMillan, of Fayetteville, a handsome, attractive, highly intelligent lady who survived him for a few years. For probably thirty years he was a devout member of the Presbyterian church. I may mention what a thorough disciplinarian he was, over himself included, and that I believed he never received a demerit mark during his four years at West Point. The account in the Presbyterian said:

"He was a man of not only uncommon abilities, but of singular modesty. His dying request that his obsequies should be conducted without any military display was characteristic of the man. The Brooklyn papers contained long accounts of the impressive ceremonies at Dr. Cuyler's church, as did some of the New York papers. Among the pall bearers were six generals of the army, Generals Hancock, Slocum and Casey being of the number. General Sherman and General McClellan were also present, we think. He was chief of ordnance on General McClellan's staff during all his campaigns."

The very distinguished Rev. Dr. Theodore Cuyler, his pastor, spoke of him with much feeling and high praise, stating that for eight years he had been a member of that church, and had always been one of its most devoted members. The pastor alluded especially to the regularity with which General Kingsbury attended upon the services of the church at prayer meetings. He was always present, when in the city, at the weekly services. Dr. Cuyler said farther, "and I believe truthfully:

"The deceased was a man strong in his convictions upon every point, and this trait of his character shows with especial brilliancy in all matters connected with his religious life. He was firm and well-grounded in his faith, and had a reason for it the same

as he did in everything else upon which he formed an opinion."

I know him through all my boyhood, and was particularly attached to him. The "Presbyterian" said of him that "he was devotedly attached to North Carolina, and although he felt it his duty to follow the flag of his country and to thus cut himself off from many of his nearest kin, he never ceased in the midst of war to pray that God's protecting shield should be extended over his adopted mother." He was elected professor of mathematics in Davidson College. He served for a month and returned to his post in the army.

Gen. D. H. Hill held that he was indeed a great mathematician, and so he was. He has been in his grave for some twenty-seven years, and I, his oldest surviving relative, with one exception perhaps, cherish his memory with both affection and admiration, for he was a man of exalted type and rarely gifted. If I had possession of his many manuscripts and copies of the magazines and reviews he wrote for "Putnam's Monthly," "American Whig Review," "North American Review," "Southern Review," published at Charleston and edited by the eminent and superbly endowed Hugh Swinton Legare, and others, I would certainly issue a volume of selections from him for he wrote with elegance, vigor and clearness. My old military school teacher, Prof. William F. Disbrow, a West Point cadet, was at Lovejoy's Military Academy at Raleigh when I was a student there in 1846-1846, he told me that my cousin was the ablest man in his class and was so regarded generally.

It was General Daniel L. Hill that recommended him, to fill his own place at Davidson College when he himself retired. My cousin would not continue longer because he thought the discipline too lax, as Dr. Donly Lacey, the president of the college, told me years later. I confess to no little admiration and affection for my able, accomplished kinsman after he has been in his grave for some thirty years. There have been some kinsmen of mine in the South, two judges among them, who had some prominence, and of the number were two colonels, one lieutenant colonel, one major, and so far as I know or believe, the foremost of all was Charles P. Kingsbury, of whom I present this simple outline of affection. I make no apology for the offenses beyond its insufficiency.

I regret to say that for some months I have been in no condition of health to consider the first volume of Capt. Samuel A. Ashe's very valuable "History of North Carolina." I have only been able to glance at it, reading in all but a few of its voluminous pages, and regretting most sincerely that owing to the condition of my eyes, and protracted illness, I have found it impossible to read the entire first volume of an historical work that so aroused my attention and excites my admiration so much. It impresses me as a work of marked value and interest, and I rejoice that North Carolinians have at last a history of their own great commonwealth that is so elaborate, excellent and complete. Not only is it the best book of its kind bearing upon North Carolina in incident and force and literary excellence, but it is very best printed of all series of an attempt ever made in our State. Its literary execution impresses me as superior, and the style of print and binding is of a high grade, and most remarkable. I rejoice in the creation and publication of such a work that is a real honor to all concerned in its preparation and publication. The author proves what I, for one, have for years regarded him as being gifted with genuine historic endowment, and capable of producing a work of high value and real literary excellence. I would like to be able to spend days in a critical study of this masterly historic promise, and when its second volume is completed to write for days regarding its remarkable qualities as to historic verity, historic style, and the rich accumulations of careful study, thorough preparation and enthusiastic devotion to all of the chief claims of the superb theme. It is a work to be more carefully studied—to be read again and again. This will not only inform the world, but it will excite the admiration and devotion of the student. North Carolina history is really rich in incidents and facts of unusual interest. Capt. Ashe surely deserves the grateful thanks of all readers "native here and to the manner born," and it must be so much studied by the present and future generations that they will be thoroughly informed as well as stimulated immensely in their pride of State and absolute devotion to the causes and events that have made North Carolina unique and original

## COTTON IS KING

Would you like to grow it profitably? Then plant "Simpkin's Profile," the earliest maturing cotton in the world, ninety days from planting to boll. It is the cotton for truckers. Where I grow 30,000 pounds Cabbages per acre I grow 2 1-2 bales cotton by putting dows six feet apart, planting cotton in the middle of the rows.

For sale by the originator and introducer. All seed guaranteed to me.

**W. A. SIMPKINS, Raleigh, N. C.**

References: Any bank or business house in Raleigh.

and even great among States. Writing rapidly under physical embarrassments, I wish to record a little incident connected with my own intercourse with Capt. Ashe, now extending through well nigh forty years. About the year 1874 or 1875 I was engaged at Raleigh in editing Col. L. D. Pool's tri-monthly publications, "Our Living and Our Dead," and the "North Carolina Educational Journal." I issued a circular to the people of North Carolina in which I stated that I purposed soon to begin the preparation of a "History of the People of North Carolina," based somewhat upon that most remarkable and, as I hold, the most masterly one-volume history ever published in the world, Thucydides, the Greek, wrote his superb "History of Greece." Col. Pool became interested in the project to the extent that he made some preparation to put it in my power to consummate my plans.

I left Raleigh and returned to my home at Oxford and fully expected to begin my self-appointed, stimulating task at once. To that end I began certain needed preparations. Now Capt. Ashe comes into the plan. I know nothing of his own plans and preparations. I received a letter from him stating that he had for some time been preparing for the writing of such a work as I propose. But he most generously and kindly waved all conflicting purpose or plan, and said he would not only willingly relieve, but would send me all the historic material he had gathered in the way of books, pamphlets, etc., but would also send me such books that belonged to Judge William H. Battle's collection. All this was done, and most gladly received by me, for the aid promised was no little. And now comes the climax. Unseen financial trouble on the part of another came with great surprise to me, and simply ruined my hopes and prospects. The whole plan failed at once, I abandoned the ambition purpose, and was driven into other fields of endeavor. And now in 1909, after the elapse of nearly thirty years I am indeed most glad of my own saddening failure and disappointment. And why this rejoicing? Briefly this: But for the failure in finance of another I would have completely failed in my own literary school. The twenty-seven volumes of the most important "Colonial Records" of North Carolina were not then known or dreamed of, and my proposed work would have been filled with the thousand and one errors that crowd other volumes published in the past. Governor D. L. Swain told Rev. Dr. Calvin H. Wiley, an old intimate friend of my boyhood and manhood, as he impressed me at the last interview I ever held with him, now more than thirty-three years ago, that he (Governor Swain) had actually found one thousand errors in "Wheeler's History of North Carolina," by "actual count." So I rejoice that my long-ago plans failed. I am gladder than ever when I handle the masterly first volume of Captain Ashe's historic undertaking, and I realize that I never got in his way in any manner to prevent or delay the production of a work so very superior to anything of my own that I could have written. I am glad indeed that my friend has been spared for the consummation of his wise plans and the production of a work of such high value and interest, as I am constrained to believe. I write now in the hope that cultivated, capable North Carolinians will duly appreciate the really superior work of my friend, and aid in making it a permanent possession for the youth of our State. I am writing with no reference or purpose to legislation, for the above paper was written before I knew of any legislative plans, or the opinion of Capt. Ashe in regard to the Mecklenburg Declaration, which I only saw after I had prepared my own views and wishes. He is a careful, judicious North Carolinian. Many able men have held this view of the 20th May Declaration that Capt. Ashe holds. I recall that Gov. Swain, Chief Justice Thomas Rufin, Rev. Dr. Charles Phillips, Davenport R. Goodloe, and many others of the eminent men of the past who were North Carolinians, rejected the 20th May Declaration and held to the 31st May. I do not consider it here.

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### Cost of Production.

Over-enthusiastic supporters of the various movements for the control of the price of cotton too often lose sight of the fact that a product "well bought is half sold."

On one occasion we heard the leader of a great cotton growers' move-

ment seriously declare that all the South needed now was to get the worth of her great staple product. We should not miss any opportunity to strengthen and improve our marketing, but it is the height of absurdity to neglect the production side. The man who makes his cotton for 6 cents a pound, no matter how high the selling price, has just 4 cents a pound greater profit than the man who makes it at a cost of 10 cents. Likewise the man who makes a bale to the acre will make a greater profit than the man who makes half a bale. It is, therefore, nonsense, if not something worse, for any man to claim that we know enough about making cotton already, so long as it requires, on an average, two and one-half acres of land to produce a bale of cotton.

We have much yet to learn about marketing crops, but not more than we still need to learn about producing them. The latter is largely an individual matter, while the former is almost entirely one of co-operation. The one we can do without the assistance of our fellow-producers, while the other is largely beyond our individual influence. The one requiring combined action is, therefore, the more difficult to accomplish, hence, let no one neglect an opportunity to give his aid to any movement which will make for co-operative action in the marketing of the South's greatest heritage. But for immediate, large and profitable results, let us not fail to produce our cotton at the least possible cost by making the highest possible yield per acre.

### WOMEN AND FIRE ARMS

Advice to Women Who May Wish to Learn to Shoot.

Mrs. Adolph Topperwein, a famous woman trap shooter, contributes a timely article to March Recreation, on "Shooting as a Sport for Women." Mrs. Topperwein discusses the subject from all standpoints, and her article is replete with valuable suggestions and information. As practice usually commences with the .22 rifle, the following excerpt will be of interest: "If one lives on the outskirts of town—as so many girls and women do whose husbands or fathers are sportsmen—one can practice with a .22 rifle or pistol right at home. One must be careful, of course, to place the target in front of a suitable backdrop, as the little .22 cartridge, although innocent looking, is a wicked shooter and its range is three or four times greater than is commonly supposed, even by experienced shooters. If you have no suitable bank of sand or earth to shoot into, a safe backdrop is made as follows: Take a box some three feet square and made of some soft wood, the boards being about an inch thick; place it breast high on another box or other suitable support, and tack your paper target on one side. Then place an iron or a steel plate inside the box, against the other side, fasten it so it will stay put and nail down the lid. This is a safe target—but you must be sure to hit the box! I advise beginners to first learn to shoot where they have a backdrop that is as big as possible; preferably a steep bank in a sand-pit where there are no stones for the bullets to glance from. When you can hit the paper target every time, then it is safe to set up your steel-backed box. And when you can hit the bull's-eye three times out of ten or better, and keep it up, you may begin to think of shooting at objects thrown in the air—tin cans, blocks of wood, etc.; it is hazardous to shoot at bottles or stones, particularly if you have an audience. There are numerous ways of fixing up moving and disappearing targets, some of which will be sure to suggest themselves when you become expert enough to think of trying your skill at them. A fair average range for pistol shooting is fifteen or twenty yards, and for rifle shooting seventy-five or one hundred feet. Paper targets may be obtained from the ammunition dealer."

### A Bright Pupil's Answer.

(Success Magazine.)

Algebra was the wife of Euclid. A ruminating animal is one that chews its cubs. Switzerland is a wonderful place; you can often see the mountains towering among the clouds.

Pro and Con are prefixes of opposite meaning, e. g., Progress, Congress. Queen Elizabeth's face was thin and pale, but she was a stout Protestant.

By the law of a unity you may know that your own is always seeking you if you are seeking it with all your might.